

don't. I believe that the solution is to make term limits mandatory by passing a constitutional amendment that would limit the terms of Members of Congress so that everyone will be subject to the same requirement. I am introducing a proposal to do this, and limit House and Senate Member terms to 12 years.

These bills are the latest proposals of my ongoing efforts to reform Congress. In addition to chairing the Congressional Balanced Budget Amendment Caucus, and so working to take away the unlimited ability of Congress to borrow money, I introduced House Resolution 270 in January, which would cut Congressional pay by 10 percent as well as reduce Congressional office budgets. In September, I introduced House Resolution 2913, which would terminate the pension plan available to members of Congress. All of my reforms are about changing the culture of Washington, D.C. to make government work for the American people.

I urge the passage of these bills.

HONORING ERWIN J. KORCZYNSKI

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Erwin J. Korczynski, a talented pilot and patriot from Chicago, Illinois who died on January 5, 2011 of prostate cancer.

From an early age, Captain Korczynski exhibited the success and commitment to public service that would define his life. Born in 1942 to first generation Polish American parents, he achieved the rank of Life Scout for the Boy Scouts of America, lettered 6 times in Track and Field at Lane Technical High School, and was a member of the famous Chicago Cavalier Drum and Bugle Corps. He also attended Northern Illinois University and entered the priesthood at St. Ambrose Seminary in Davenport, Iowa—a calling that he would later selflessly leave to join the Marine Corps.

Even in his early years, Captain Korczynski showed a passion for aviation. From the age of 15, he and his twin brother Edwin took flying lessons and graduated with their flying licenses at the age of 18. He joined the Marine Attack Squadron, VMA 131 in 1963 during the escalation of the Vietnam War. During the course of the war, he rose to the rank of Sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1969.

Following his tenure with the Marines, Captain Korczynski flew commercial planes during the golden age of commercial aviation. Impressively, over 25,000 hours of flight time he maintained a spotless record while at Eastern Airlines and several other airlines around the world.

Using his flying talent to again serve our country, Captain Korczynski volunteered from 1990 to 1991 during the Persian Gulf War. As a pilot in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF), he flew civilian aircraft to transport troops and supplies necessary to liberate Kuwait. Captain Korczynski was an honorably discharged Marine and a reservist at the time, but was not activated during the conflict. He volunteered to serve anyway, showing his patriotism and dedication to his country.

In his later years, Captain Korczynski trained and mentored young pilots. Certified

as a commercial airline check airman and flight instructor, he instructed young pilots at the Gulfstream Flight Academy for Gulfstream Airlines based in Miami, Florida. He left an everlasting impression on these young pilots who would later recall these stories of his Marine Corps days, commercial airline career, and world travels as “Erwinisms.”

Our country owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Captain Korczynski for his tireless defense of our country during two major conflicts. In neither case was he obligated to don a uniform. In voluntarily joining the Marines and airlifting 30 years later, he illustrated his commitment to freedom and democracy around the world. Simply put, the United States is a better country because of him. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Captain Korczynski's twin brother, Edwin, wife Henrietta, daughters Elizabeth and Kiersten, sons Ryan and Christian, and granddaughter Emmalyn. He will always be remembered as a great man and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK TAYLOR

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated, compassionate and effective public servant Frank Taylor, who is retiring after serving the people of Macomb County, Michigan for 33 years, the last 10 as Director of the County's Community Services Agency. Mr. Taylor is a leader in the field of Community Action Agencies and a shining example of everything a public servant should aspire to be.

Mr. Taylor graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1974. The next year he began teaching and coaching at Harper Woods Public Schools and began earning his Master of Arts Degree in Education from Oakland University which he completed in 1980. In 1979, he began his successful tenure with Macomb County, starting at the Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board as a Youth Programs Supervisor. He rose through the ranks becoming Assistant Director in 1982 and holding that position until 1997 when he was promoted to Director. In 2001 he embraced a new challenge, moved departments and became Director of the Macomb County Community Services Agency.

Under Mr. Taylor's leadership the Community Services Agency established highly effective programs and services that addressed that most pertinent needs of county residents. He worked diligently to leverage funds from the Recovery Act, administering over 14 million dollars for vital programs such as Home Weatherization, Food Assistance and Early Head Start. In fact, through creative thinking, he was able to leverage funds and make the vital Early Head Start program permanent one year after its enactment.

In addition, the Senior Nutrition program vastly increased the number of meals offered to homebound senior citizens and the Food Program increased the amount of emergency food distributed. Mr. Taylor effectively identified grant opportunities to provide emergency services to low income individuals in need.

In 2010 Mr. Taylor led a statewide initiative to purchase a multimillion dollar client database within nine months that substantially increased accessibility and efficiency. The initiative included a plan to deliver training to staff and is now being used by every Community Action Agency in the State.

I have witnessed first-hand Mr. Taylor's passion and dedication through the years. He is an outspoken advocate for low-income home energy assistance, as well as the Community Service Block Grant program, which is so important to the delivery of vital services to those in need. Mr. Taylor has always focused like a laser on ensuring that residents of the county receive the highest quality of services in an efficient and compassionate manner. It has been a true pleasure for my staff and I to work with him, and the citizens of Macomb County are grateful for his dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Frank Taylor, who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of living for working class people in Macomb County for 33 years. I am confident he will continue to play an important role in the community where he is highly thought of, in addition to enjoying a bit of retirement. Importantly, he and his wife Rosanne, married 34 years, now get to enjoy spending time with their first grandchild, Olivia, just born on December 6th.

LEGISLATION TO ALLOW CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today with the following Members: Mr. ELIJAH CUMMINGS, Mr. JOHN DUNCAN, and Mr. PEDRO PIERLUISSI.

Currently, Members of Congress are allowed to nominate a limited number of candidates to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. However, the smallest of the five federal service academies—the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, USCGA—does not accept congressional nominations.

Instead, the USCGA admits candidates through a process that closely resembles the admissions processes of civilian colleges and universities. Without a congressional nominations process, the applicant pool of candidates to the USCGA is predictably less geographically diverse than at the other military service academies. The inevitable result of a less geographically diverse applicant pool is a less geographically diverse class. The statistics bear this out; in fact, there was not a single appointment from Arkansas, Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands in the USCGA Class of 2015.

Under my legislation, starting in academic year 2013, each Member of Congress would be allowed to nominate up to three qualified candidates to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. In turn, the Coast Guard would be required to

fill a quarter of slots for the incoming class from the expanded pool of qualified, geographically-diverse applicants received through the congressional nominations process. Then, in each subsequent academic year, half of the slots in each incoming class would have to be filled through the congressional nominations process.

My legislation will not require the Coast Guard to lower its student selection criteria or increase the size of the student population. To the contrary, it anticipates that the Coast Guard will utilize its criteria to select the best candidates from the pool of Member-nominated candidates for half of the slots in the incoming class, just as it will do to fill the slots in the other half of the incoming class. My legislation simply seeks to make Congress a partner in helping to put talented young people—from every corner of the country—on the path to a rewarding career in the U.S. Coast Guard.

I urge support of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to vote on the Conference report to H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act of FY2012 on December 14, 2011. I would like to have it reflected in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if I had the opportunity to vote on H.R. 1540, I would have voted “aye.”

COPTIC CHRISTIANS UNDER ATTACK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Christians in Egypt are under attack. The revolution may have overthrown a longtime dictator, but it has not freed Christians there from decades of persecution. In fact, it may have made matters worse.

Christians in Egypt are a deeply rooted minority of about 10 million in a largely Muslim society of 81 million. Prior to the revolution, they had a hard time. Discrimination was not an official policy of the Mubarak regime—he didn’t want to lose his aid dollars the U.S. was giving him—but he sure made it hard on Christians. When Christians wanted to build a new church or renovate their own, they had to get a permit. That’s fine, except for the fact that the Mubarak government intentionally delayed the permitting process. Churches would have to wait years for permits—some churches are still waiting. Mubarak pretended to fix this problem when he handed permitting control over to the 28 regional governors, but wait times for a permit didn’t get any better.

They were also discriminated against when it came to appointments to high-level government and military posts. There were only a handful of Christians in the upper ranks of the

security services and armed forces. There was one Christian governor out of 28, one elected Member of Parliament out of 454 seats, no known university presidents or deans, and very few legislators or judges. According to the State Department, public university training programs for Arabic-language teachers exclude non-Muslims because the curriculum involves the study of the Koran.

Other discrimination was official for everyone to see. Under Egyptian law, Muslim men can marry Christian women but Muslim women are prohibited from marrying Christian men.

And sometimes discrimination progressed to outright violence against Christians. In September 2010, in the Omraneia district of Cairo, Egyptian authorities reportedly used excessive force and live ammunition on peaceful demonstrators protesting the government’s continued refusal to approve a license to build a local church extension. Two people, including a teenager, were killed, and dozens were wounded. No one has been brought to justice.

When the government was using excessive force, it was radical Islamists. On January 1, 2011, a bomb detonated in front of a Coptic church, Al Qiddissin (Two Saints), in Alexandria, where a New Year’s prayer service was being held. At least 23 Christians were killed and nearly 100 wounded in the worst sectarian attack on Christians in Egypt in more than a decade. On January 23, then-Interior Minister Habib El-Adly asserted that conclusive evidence pointed to a militant group, Army of Islam, as responsible for the attack.

On January 11, 2011, an off-duty police officer opened fire in a train in Minya province, killing one Christian and injuring five others. The shooter, a Muslim, was charged with murder and will be tried in a state security court. The Ministry of Interior denied the shooting was sectarian.

When the revolution came, thousands of Christians fueled the protests, yearning for a new government that would respect the religious beliefs of its own people. But just a few weeks after the revolution, it became clear that Christians were actually in more danger.

During the revolution, a bunch of bad guys escaped prison. To protect themselves, monks at the Anba Bishoy monastery north of Cairo built a security wall. Well, the Egyptian military didn’t like that very much, so in late February they tore down the wall with machine guns and bulldozers. You can see video online of monks running for cover as the military is opening fire with heavy machinery. A monk and six church workers were injured in the process.

In February the governor of el-Minya, demolished 10 Coptic homes because the owners of those homes refused to contribute one-fifth of their property to build a mosque.

In early March in Cairo, 13 people were killed and nearly 150 wounded in clashes that erupted during large-scale demonstrations by Christians protesting the destruction of a church in the provincial town of Sol. The demonstrators called for the rebuilding of the church, punishment of perpetrators, and better treatment by Egyptian authorities. Some of the demonstrations reportedly blocked major highways. According to some accounts, the Egyptian military stood by for as long as four hours without intervening in the clashes.

On March 20, in Qena, Salafists, including an off-duty policeman, accused a Copt named

Ayman Mitri of renting an apartment to a prostitute, cut off one of his ears and mutilated his other ear. The attackers then informed the police that they had carried out the punishment required by Islamic law. As was usual under Mubarak, the police refrained from pressing charges and called for a “reconciliation” meeting between the religious communities. The Christian man agreed to compensation during the reconciliation session instead of pursuing criminal charges because the extremists allegedly threatened his family.

Also as under Mubarak, the authorities’ refusal to punish attacks on Christians has led to more attacks. On March 23, Salafists surrounded St. George’s church in Beni Ahmad and successfully demanded that a church expansion approved by the government be stopped. On March 27, they blockaded St. Mary’s church in Giza, saying it did not have a permit. After yet another “reconciliation” meeting between Copts and Muslims, services at the church were forbidden until it acquired a new permit.

On March 28, Salafists attacked a liquor store in Kasr El-Bassil owned by a Copt, destroyed other stores, and demanded that coffee shops be closed. One villager was killed and eight others injured. On April 5, hundreds occupied St. John the Beloved church in Kamadeer, stopping repairs after heavy rain, and told Copts that they were not allowed to pray there anymore. After yet another “reconciliation,” Copts were told to build a church 200 meters away, one without a dome, cross, bell, or any other external feature marking it as a church.

Beginning on April 15, over 10,000 demonstrators, mostly Salafists, protested in the southern province of Qena against the appointment of a new governor, Emad Mikhail, who is a Christian (the previous governor, Magdy Ayoub, was also Christian). Protesters blocked main roads, stopped buses to separate men and women passengers, and disrupted the main rail route in Upper Egypt for eight days. There were threats to bar Mikhail from the province and even to kill him. Tensions ran so high that local Christians stayed inside and couldn’t celebrate Palm Sunday. The armed forces refused to intervene, and, although Egypt’s cabinet initially rejected calls for the governor’s resignation, on April 25, Prime Minister Essam Sheraf surrendered and said he would “freeze” the appointment for three months.

On April 28, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom for the first time recommended to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that Egypt be labeled a “Country of Particular Concern (CPC).” This designation refers, as commission chair Leonard Leo noted, to “the world’s worst religious freedom violators and human rights abusers.”

The abuse continues, with the worst violence against Christians in decades.

On October 9 thousands of peaceful demonstrators marched in downtown Cairo to protest the attack of a Coptic Christian church and called for an end to the systematic discrimination against Copts by the Egyptian authorities. At some point in the protest, violent clashes erupted between the protesters and the Egyptian military forces. Video shows Egyptian military tanks speeding through crowds and running over protesters. At one point, the Egyptian State Television aired a message calling on “honorable citizens” to